National Operations Update

As of 7:45 a.m., 7 Feb 2022

Emergency Preparedness Secretariat

(starting with the next report, changes will be in **RED** font)

MAIN POINTS

- Updated: Status of COVID RFAs
  Irrelevant
- Updated: Summary of Canada Unity Convoy 2022 planned demonstration
  - NEW: RFA received from Province of Alberta

CURRENT OPERATIONS/ISSUES:

COVID-19

Current RFA Update

Jurisdiction	RFA	Status
Irrelevant		

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Irrelevant

Irrelevant

Potential New RFAs being considered

Jurisdiction	RFA	Status
Irrelevant		

CANADA UNITY CONVOY 2022 –DEMONSTRATION

Current RFA Update

Jurisdiction	RFA	Status
Alberta	**Support (Convoy) –** For provision of equipment and personnel to move approximately 70 semi-tractor trailers and approximately 75 personal and recreational vehicles.	Letter to Min PS and Min EP. received on 5 Feb

- The demonstrations continued in Ottawa on 6 Feb, with an estimated 1,000 people converging the downtown core:
  - On 6 Feb, the City of Ottawa declared a State of Local Emergency further to announcing that enforcement on protesters would be ramped up (i.e., handing out tickets to anyone looking to bring material aid, such as fuel, to protesters could be arrested).
  - A high police presence remains on site. Ottawa Police Service hotline has been set up to report crimes, resulting in 97 criminal investigations.
  - On 3 Feb, the RCMP approved a request from the City of Ottawa for additional resources to help the Ottawa Police Service, including an increase in officers. OPS has also received additional support from the OPP and seven municipal police services. On 5

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Feb, OPS Chief told media that an additional surge of resources was needed to deal with the protests.
  - A number of roads and interprovincial bridges remain closed or partially closed in and around the city; citizens are urged to avoid unnecessary travel to the core.
  - Tow truck companies are rejecting OPS requests for help.
  - A NOTAM has been issued with an airspace restriction over downtown Ottawa – extended to 7 Feb.

- Other protests are were held across Canada, in solidary with those in Ottawa:
  - Toronto:
    - No reports of demonstrations on 7 Feb, but Toronto Police maintained and heavy presence in the downtown core.
    - A man was arrested after feces were thrown at an anti-mandate protest on Saturday; he was charged with assault with a weapon.
    - A male, who allegedly had a smoke bomb, was arrested on three charges.
  - Sarnia (POE):
    - Demonstrations closed the the Blue Water Crossing on 6 Feb; alternate routes were set to keep the flow of traffic and advised international traffic to use the Windsor crossing instead.
  - Quebec City:
    - Demonstrations continued in the vicinity of the National Assembly Building on 6 Feb; the truckers left at the request of the protest organizer, but vowed to come back to the provincial capital for the closing of the Carnival Festival.
    - A male, 31, was arrested for refusing to move his vehicle from a traffic lane. The vehicle was towed; 11 municipal fines on peace and good order; 10 fins under the Highway Safety Code.
    - A crowdfunding platform, Simplyk, set up by e Quebec organizers was quickly shut down as it was not intended to raise money for an eligible non-for profit organization.
  - Halifax:
    - Demonstration took place on 6 Feb, bringing in a thousand vehicles through the city's sound end, downtown and into Bayer's Lake Business Park; the event remained peaceful.
    - On 5 Feb, the province has issued a directive under the Emergency Management Act prohibiting protesters from blocking or disrupting traffic on any road, street or highway in NS.
  - Winnipeg:
    - No new reports of demonstrations. Demonstrations took place at the MB Legislative Building on 5 Feb; the event remained peaceful.
    - Overnight on 4 Feb, a lone male driver from Manitoba was arrested after 4 men were struck in a hit and run; no severe or life altering injuries. The accused faces 13 charges and is currently in custody. Winnipeg Police report that the accused was not participating in the protest and his motivation was not specifically about the underlying causes of the protest or the mandates.
  - Regina:
    - No new reports of demonstrations. Demonstrations took place at the SK Legislative Building on 5 Feb; the event remained peaceful.

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- Calgary, Lethbridge, Edmonton:
  - No new reports of demonstrations. Demonstrations (approx. 1500 demonstrators) took place at Central Memorial Park in Calgay on 5 Feb; the event remained peaceful.
- Coutts, AB (POE):
  - The blockage at Coutts, AB POE, situation has evolved, with two lanes open allowing access to and from the US border. A second blockade approx. 20 km north of Coutts has been organized. Airspace restrictions have been in place over Coutts.
  - On 5 Feb, an RFA was received from the Province for the provision of equipment and personnel to move approximately 70 semi-tractor trailers and approximately 75 personal and recreational vehicles.
- Vancouver, VIctoria:
  - No new reports of demonstrations. Demonstrations remained peaceful on 5 Feb. Freedom Convoy was met with counter-protestors – stand off was brief; congested streets in Metro Vancouver, including traffic delays and congestion on routes and bridges.
- Mariners for Freedom vessel parade is being planned for across Canada. There is no intent to block shipping lanes or ports; potential to block provincial ferries (NS/NL) to influence provincial governments.
  - MSOC and security partners are aware and continue to monitor. Overall risk assessed as very low.

- The crowdfunding platform GoFundMe deleted the fundraising page, saying the protest violates a rule in its terms of service that prohibits the promotion of violence and harassment. As of 5 Feb, GoFundMe will issue to refunds for the more than $10M received in donations.
- As of 7 Feb, Convoy organizers have raised more than $2.5M US on a Christian fundraising service, GiveSendGo (used for the Proud Boys who participated in the insurrection on US Capital Hill).
- Supporters are also turning to cryptocurrency websites to raise money; “Bitcoin for Truckers” raised more than $163,000 in about a day.

IQALUIT WATER SAFETY

- News media reporting calls mount for public inquiry into Iqaluit water crisis. The Government of Nunavut has stated its intent on proceeding with an independent third-party review in conjunction with the City of Iqaluit.
- As of 28 Jan, Nunavut’s Health Department has lifted a precautionary boil-water advisory for the City of Iqaluit. The advisory was put in place on 19 Jan when the city started using a bypass system to pump water to residents.
- Nunavut MP Lori Idlout (NDP) is calling for $180M to end the water emergency in Iqaluit, in a letter dated 21 Jan to Infrastructure and Communities Minister Dominic Leblanc. No specifics provided on what the funds would be used for, but Mayor Kenny Bell recently stated that the city needs a new water source and treatment plant.
- Some residents have reported a return fuel smells in water. Although slight levels of hydrocarbons have been detected in the water, these levels are within an acceptable range.

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BEIJING 2022 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

- The Beijing Games will run from 4 February to 20 February 2022.
- An anticipated 614 Team Canada members and 108 other Canadian Games participants will travel to Beijing. As of 6 Feb, 502 had arrived.
- One COVID case has been confirmed on Team Canada.

EMERGING ISSUES

UKRAINE

- Minster of National Defence met with SecGen NATO on 1 Feb, and was in Latvia on 2 Feb.
- Minister of National Defence arrived in Kyiv on 30 Jan, and met with Ukrainian Defence Minister Olesksii Reznikov on 31 Jan. Ukraine has asked for lethal weapons, Canada has not committed to do so.
- On 30 Jan, Canada is temporarily withdrawing all non-essential staff from its Embassy in Kyiv. This is in addition to the 25 Jan order for all family members of diplomatic staff stationed in Ukraine to leave the country.
- GAC has updated its travel guidance, advising Canadians to avoid non-essential travel due to ongoing Russian threats and military buildup in and around the country.
- On 26 Jan, the Minister of National Defence and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, joined the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister to announce $340 million for immediate support to Ukraine and for the extension and expansion of Operation UNIFIER, the Canadian Armed Forces' military training and capacity-building mission in Ukraine.

FOR AWARENESS

OP SAFE HAVEN (ASYLUM SEEKERS)

- Increase in migrants are being reported at the Lacolle, QC port of entry, after lifting a 20 month ban. IRCC confirms it has sufficient capacity to maintain operations for the short-term.
- A transfer of asylum claimants to Ontario is being planned, beginning with a pilot project in Ottawa to start in late March.
- No RFA is expected.

SPRING FLOODING IN CANADA

- A coordination call with Public Safety and Emergency Management federal leadership to discuss the critical path for cyclical season preparations will be held on 10 February. EP will attend.
- The GOC issued its Initial Planning Guidance on 17 Jan.
- A national Risk Assessment and Plan are expected to be finalized and shared in early March.
- Public Safety's Critical Infrastructure (CI) Directorate is conducting a CI Impact Assessment with CI owners/operators, P/T governments and Federal institutions with CI responsibilities.

AVIAN INFLUENZA:

- Since 27 Jan, CFIA has confirmed 3 cases of avian influenza in NS. In all cases, remaining birds have been humanely euthanized and disposed of to prevent further spread of the disease.

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- CFIA is closely monitoring and is coordinating incident management and communications.

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